

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending, claim 2 having been canceled and claims 1 and 3 having been amended herein.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

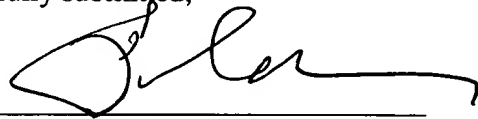
Claims 1, 3-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ulman et al. (EP0852938A2). Claim 2 was objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Without addressing the merits of the Examiner's rejections, and reserving the right to do so in a continuing application, claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitations of claim 2. Thus, claim 1 should now be allowable. Claims 3-14 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus should also now be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the applicant's undersigned representative if any further action will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that any fees are due for entry of the present amendment the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/CAN-121/PJH.

Respectfully submitted,

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